Adverse effect on education

404. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality of higher education is getting adversely affected or likely to be affected due to increasing intervention of the Ministry of Finance; and

(b) what effective steps Government propose to take to maintain quality of higher education, its standard and all the pre-requisite parameters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, a number of steps have been taken by the Commission for promoting excellence and quality. These include framing of regulations regarding minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers in universities and colleges, conduct of National Eligibility Test for appointment of teachers, emphasis on accreditation of the educational institutions by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), conferment of autonomous status to colleges, performance linked funding to the universities and conferring the status of universities with potential for excellence to certain selected universities. Besides above, the UGC also has a proposal to start certain schemes like identifying and funding of Colleges of Excellence; networking of universities and colleges; provision of computers to all the colleges, etc.

UGC grants for building construction projects

405. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is provision of grant of 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively from University Grants Commission and State Government for building construction projects of universities and colleges;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that often there is a delay in giving grants by States;

(c) if so, whether University Grants Commission has submitted its proposal for giving hundred per cent grant amount; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the Commission, during the Ninth Plan period, had been providing assistance to universities and colleges for construction of various buildings on the following pattern:—

Nature of University	Pattern of Assistance
Central Universities	100% for all building projects
State Universities	100% for women's hostel and library Building. 75% for all other buildings with remaining 25% to be met by the State Government concerned.
Deemed Universities (receiving Plan as well as Non-Plan grants from UGC)	100% for all building projects.
Deemed Universities (receiving only Plan grants from the UGC)	100% for women's hostel and library building. 75% for all other buildings with remaining 25% to be borne by the university concerned from its own resources.
Colleges	100% for women's hostel and library building. 75% for all other buildings with remaining 25% to be borne by the college management, the State Government concerned, as the case may be.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In order to avoid cost escalation and to facilitate completion of building projects in time, the Commission has decided to provide 100% grants to the universities and colleges towards all building projects admissible for grant-in-aid under Plan schemes during Tenth Plan period.

Professional education

406. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to impart professional education in all the schools/colleges of the country based on the pattern of Japan;

(b) whether Government are taking any effective step to make education employment-oriented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the National Policy on Education, Vocationalisation at Secondary Education level is provided through about 7000 schools with an enrolment capacity of about 10 lakhs students. At undergraduate level, the programme of Vocationalisation has been introduced in 2162 institutions/universities. In addition to this, various technical/professional institutions are also engaged in providing employment-oriented education.

Old syllabus in Government schools

407. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in 'Dainik Jagran', dated the 26th October, 2002 under the caption "Sarkari Schoolon main purana pathyakram hi parhaya jayega";

(b) if so, the details thereof;